

Appl. No.: 10/040,438
Amdt. dated: November 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-14 and 43-46 are cancelled without prejudice and claims 15-18, 21, and 27-30 are amended to clarify the scope of the claims. Claims 24, 26, 36, and 38 are amended to maintain claim antecedents.

The Examiner has rejected claims 15-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai et al (U.S. Patent 6,591,368) in view of Derosé et al (U.S. Patent 6,300,960).

Applicant submits that Arai relates to a system for polygon reduction that uses resolution hierarchies to allow easier calculation of interpolation data between two images, an image before deformation and an image after deformation. In particular, less detailed polygon models are generated and used to calculate interpolation between the images before and after deformation to allow more detailed polygon models to be interpolated. Derosé relates to the generation of realistic computer generated character animation by modeling skin or other covering as a separate quasi-static surface elastically tied to an underlying detailed, articulated model controlled by the animator.

Applicant submits that the references are both directed to different issues than those addressed by the present application. As indicated above, Arai is directed to a reduction of the number of polygons in each of an original image and a deformed image in order to simplify the matching of the images. In contrast, the claims of the present application focus on the use of matched images and novel interpolation techniques in presenting commodities in electronic commerce or in creating image effects. Derosé is directed to the more intricate details of how a quasi-static surface such as skin or clothing moves in relation to a more rigid body that is under the skin or clothing in a more realistic manner. Again, the focus does not appear to be on the uses of the interpolation in electronic commerce as generally considered in the present application.

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Although Arai and Derosé appear to involve the application of interpolation to 3D images, Applicant submits that neither discusses interpolation among three or more images in two or more dimensions. Applicant submits that the references do not teach or suggest the use of three or more images and correspondence information to interpolate images in two or more directions/dimensions, as generally claimed in amended claims 15 and 27 and similarly claimed in claims 16 and 28. The multi-directional/dimensional nature of the interpolation is described, for example, in the present description related to embodiment 2.

Further, although the references may describe the interpolation of images, applicant submits that the references do not teach or suggest the feature of specifying the number of intermediate images generated, as claimed in amended claims 17 and 29. This feature is useful in that, for example, it allows a sequence of images of, for example, a commodity, to be shown moving in slow or fast motion and/or with greater or lesser detail of intermediate images. Applicant submits that neither Arai nor Derosé teach or suggest this useful feature and would not be consulted in this regard.

With regard to amended claims 18 and 30, applicant submits that the references do not teach or suggest the use of a function for a mobile device that displays intermediate images based on one image and a corresponding point file. In contrast, applicant submits that the references involve interpolation that makes use of two images and corresponding points between the images and that the references do not teach or suggest this element that allows a reduction in the amount of data when dealing with mobile devices and applications.

Based on the arguments above, applicant submits that the amended independent claims 15-18 and 27-30 are in condition for allowance. For at least similar reasons, as well as the additional features contained therein, dependent claims 19, 21, 24, 26, 31, 33, 36, and 38 to 42 are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

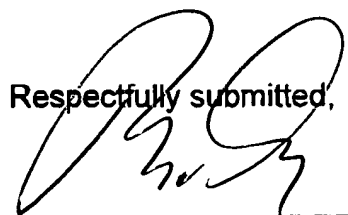
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Favourable action on this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any further concerns regarding the language of the claims or the applicability of the cited references, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Dated: 11/29/2005

Respectfully submitted,



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